



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - March 10, 2006**

- ***In the West***, heavy snow is developing in the ***central Rockies***, while rain and snow showers are scattered elsewhere. Much-needed precipitation is beginning to overspread the drought-stricken ***Southwest***, where rangeland and pastures remain in poor condition.
- ***On the Plains***, cooler air is overspreading the ***northwestern half of the region***, accompanied by scattered snow showers. Meanwhile, warm, windy weather prevails on the ***southern Plains***, maintaining severe stress on pastures and winter grains. However, wheat in a relatively narrow band across ***southern Kansas*** and ***northern Oklahoma*** is benefiting from moisture improvements associated with Thursday's rainfall.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a few showers linger across ***eastern portions of the region***, but local flooding and muddy field conditions linger in the wake of recent downpours.
- ***In the South***, areas primarily from the ***Delta westward*** are recovering from Wednesday's severe thunderstorm outbreak, which caused local wind damage. A few showers linger in the ***Southeast***, but warm weather throughout the region is promoting the rapid development of fruit trees and winter grains.

**Outlook:** A warm, humid, unstable airmass will lead to occasional showers and thunderstorms across the ***eastern third of the Nation*** before much colder weather returns next week. Meanwhile, a pronounced southward dip in the jet stream will maintain cool, unsettled conditions across much of the ***West***, with locally heavy showers possible along the ***Pacific Coast***. In the ***Nation's mid-section***, a pair of storms will bring periods of heavy rain and snow from the ***southern and central Rockies*** northeastward into the ***central Plains, western Corn Belt, and upper Midwest***, while unfavorably dry weather persists in the ***southern Plains***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 15-19 calls for drier-than-normal conditions across the ***Great Plains*** and ***Southeast***, while above-normal precipitation persists ***west of the Rockies*** and in ***northern New England***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast across ***much of the contiguous U.S.***, with near- to above-normal temperatures confined to the ***southern Plains*** and ***Gulf Coast States***.

**Contact:** Eric Luebehusen, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3361)

**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>